



# KARO ECHO Newsletter

## KARO ECHO

Serving the communities  
of El Cerrito and  
Kensington, California

**Web:** [www.karoecho.net](http://www.karoecho.net)

**Facebook:**  
[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

**Email:** [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

## Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz  
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz  
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

## Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month  
7:00 pm

Arlington Park Clubhouse,  
1120 Arlington Blvd,  
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Meeting minutes are on  
the website in the past  
events page.

## What's New

### KARO ECHO Meeting Jan. 13th, 1900 in El Cerrito

The KARO ECHO meeting starts at 1900 at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The presentation portion of this meeting will be Jay KJ6WSS showing and discussing his latest Portable Communication Station design as well as Portable Extendible Antenna Kits for field use.



Left: Edward KM6UBY operating Portable Communication Station



Right: Portable Extendible Antenna Kit on found infrastructure

### Important! - Membership Renewals are Due

Happy New Year! It is time to renew your KARO ECHO membership dues. You can pay Treasurer Larry KK6GIO at the Monday meeting or mail to P.O. Box 2025, El Cerrito, CA, 94530-3651. \$30 for individual membership, or \$40 for family membership. Thanks.

**LOCAL NETS****KARO ECHO NET**

146.415 MHz Simplex

Thursday eve, immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 hours local time.

**West Contra County ACS/RACES Net**

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

**Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net**

3893 KHz

Thursday: 1835 local time

**American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)**

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX =5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

**BOARD OFFICERS**

President: Hal KK6NDF

Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO

Secretary: Natalie KM6UCF

Emergency Coordinator:  
(also newsletter and  
net coordinator)

Howdy KE6BEE

Webmaestro: Rob K6RJM

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**What's New *(continued)***

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**Announcing date of next KARO ECHO SET, March 14th**

Saturday March 14th, 0900-1200, is the date/time for the next KARO ECHO simulated Emergency Test (SET). More details will be forthcoming, but please save the date and plan to participate if you can. One goal of this SET is to practice changes of operation during the net, including hand-offs between multiple net control operators and redeployment of some operators from one location to another.

**Feb 29th FRS/GMRS class**

The recent CERT survey identified over 90 individuals with past CERT training who are interested in radio communications. KARO ECHO plans to invite them, and others who are interested, to an introductory FRS/GMRS class to be held Saturday Feb 29th. There will be a hands on emphasis to this class and it will be held during the day so that operators can disburse outside in a park and experience using radios in a realistic way. While there is not a direct connection between this class and the March 14th SET, we may recruit some of those trained in the FRS/GMRS class to participate, or at least observe the ham SET to build understanding of our capabilities as well as build our potential pool of neighborhood radio operators to feed information to our ham net during an emergency.

**KARO ECHO Mobile Radio "Go-kit" Has a Home**

A fully featured mobile radio "go-kit" with large battery, ham and GMRS radios, antennas and accessories (including message forms and documentation) is being deployed to Davis' KJ6PPR garage. A few KARO ECHO operators should have access in case of using it mobile in emergency operations.

Contact [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net) if you are interested in being one of the operators with access to this mobile kit.

**Antenna Patch Boxes for El Cerrito Clubhouses**

The two roof-top antenna patch boxes on the Harding and Tassajara clubhouses were used in the Oct 26th SET. KARO ECHO operators are encouraged to test using them. The boxes have combination lock access, contact Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net). Patch cords that can adapt to common hand held radios are stored in the boxes, but it is also a good idea for each operator to have a stock of appropriate adapters and cables to fit this, and other, external antenna connection applications.

## Activities

### Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster has 9 operators. There are opportunities for others to fill in when a regular station has a scheduling conflict and there is always room to add more stations to the rotation. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Below are the current scheduled dates for each operator. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the "+GoogleCalendar" button in the lower right.

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: 7/4/2019, 11/28/2019)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	6/20/2019	8/29/2019	10/31/2019	1/9/2020	3/12/2020	5/14/2020	7/16/2020
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	6/27/2019	9/5/2019	11/7/2019	1/16/2020	3/19/2020	5/21/2020	7/23/2020
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	7/11/2019	9/12/2019	11/14/2019	1/23/2020	3/26/2020	5/28/2020	7/30/2020
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow	7/18/2019	9/19/2019	11/21/2019	1/30/2020	4/2/2020	6/4/2020	8/6/2020
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	7/25/2019	9/26/2019	12/5/2019	2/6/2020	4/9/2020	6/11/2020	8/13/2020
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	8/1/2019	10/3/2019	12/12/2019	2/13/2020	4/16/2020	6/18/2020	8/20/2020
NI6A	Don Simon	8/8/2019	10/10/2019	12/19/2019	2/20/2020	4/23/2020	6/25/2020	8/27/2020
KM6TCB	Dave Roth	8/15/2019	10/17/2019	12/26/2019	2/27/2020	4/30/2020	7/2/2020	9/3/2020
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	8/22/2019	10/24/2019	1/2/2020	3/5/2020	5/7/2020	7/9/2020	9/10/2020

Net control is a skill that many operators should have and regularly practice. Please contact Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net) if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

### Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications. [A list of training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website.

There were 743 total check-ins to the Thursday net in 2019. Our average check-ins per week has grown to 15 and we have had many weekly nets in the past few months in the 17-22 range (the previous year never broke 20). Thanks for your participation. In 2018 we had 47 unique callsigns check-in. That count has strongly **grown to 74 unique callsigns over 2019**. It is great to see that more operators are active. Keep it up!

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## About KARO ECHO

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KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The next meetings are:

- ♦ Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- ♦ Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Yearly membership dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Payments can be given to the Treasurer at monthly meetings or mailed to the address below. Participation is welcome independent of paid membership, but only licensed amateur radio operators who are dues paying KARO ECHO members will be allowed to vote on KARO ECHO business. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications is welcome.

Mail to: KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: [www.karoecho.net](http://www.karoecho.net)

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

### KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/> Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

### Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

### KARO-ECHO Frequencies

The KARO ECHO primary frequency is 146.415 MHz simplex. Our secondary frequency is 146.475 MHz simplex, creating a 60 KHz spread between operating frequencies that will reduced adjacent frequency de-sensing.

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## Outreach, Education and Licensing

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### SET Video

We are looking for volunteers to take the lead producing a video documenting the Feb 23 SET using assorted voice recordings, videos, photos, and narration. If you have any video editing or production skills (or you can recommend someone) please contact [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net) We need your help -- don't be shy.

Also, we intend to collect additional video during the next SET (March 14th) and would appreciate volunteers to help document our activities.

### CERT SET YouTube Video

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLIn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

### ELMERING

Elmering/Mentoring is available by request. Email [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature to be created.

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## KAROECHO.Net Website

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Especially, check out the EVENTS Page ( <https://www.karoecho.net/events> ) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ◆ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ◆ If you haven't already filled out the **JOIN** form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ◆ A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>
- ◆ Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-duddy world is at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u\\_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV\\_rxWF1WjCgW\\_I/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view)
- ◆ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ◆ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
- ◆ Following the Thursday evening net check-in, there is often a training session and/or discussion.
- ◆ All recent KARO ECHO **Minutes will be found at our Past Events page** We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page.](#)

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)